

This document was originally posted on March 16, 2022, and will be updated as additional questions and answers are available. New questions and responses are indicated in blue text.

Updated: March 29, 2022

1. Will the AESO include a procedure for system controllers to provide an advanced notification when there is the expectation for a Transmission Must-Run (TMR) dispatch?

The AESO does not anticipate providing an advanced notification for a TMR dispatch. However, the AESO may send out two types of energy dispatches (i.e., real-time dispatch and next-hour dispatch). In both cases, there is an effective time for each dispatch which is either at the top of the next minute (real-time dispatch) or the top of the next hour (next-hour dispatch). A revised draft agreement will be issued as part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) competition documents, and is expected to require the service provider to begin ramping upon the AESO's effective time of a valid dispatch instruction and for the service provider to achieve the dispatched volume (subject to the allowable dispatch variance) within 30 minutes or less if required by the Independent System Operator (ISO) rules.

2. How often does the AESO expect to request a service provider to reschedule a planned outage and why is this necessary?

To date, a request from the AESO to defer a generator planned outage in accordance with the ISO rules has been a rare circumstance and has not occurred in recent years. Such a request would be limited to the extent required to mitigate system reliability risks, and the service provider would be required to comply unless it posed specific risks such as to equipment, people, or the environment or would result in a breach of applicable law. Please refer to the draft TMR agreement, which has been included in the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) document, for additional information.

3. Why must a generating unit be connected to one of the seven substations located in the Grande Prairie planning area (area 20)?

Based on technical studies the AESO determined that the generating unit(s) must be connected to one of the seven specified substations to satisfy the need for foreseeable TMR service in the Grande Prairie planning area (area 20) and as further described in the REOI.

4. What happens in the event that the AESO requires TMR in excess of the contract volume?

The AESO can dispatch TMR up to the contract volume specified in a valid dispatch instruction as defined in the TMR agreement. If additional volume is required above the contract volume specified in the TMR agreement, the AESO may direct any qualified facility to generate under conscription and such facility would be compensated as per Section 8 of the ISO tariff.

5. Why is the procurement target volume a range?

The AESO is targeting to procure between 35 MW and up to 45 MW of TMR service based on a variety of factors included in the technical studies. When establishing the procurement target volume range, consideration was also given to the foreseeable need for TMR in the region and our procurement principles which include minimizing barriers to participation. Please see the REOI, and RFP competition documents once available.

6. Can you please provide an example of what could trigger the AESO to exercise the six-month extensions?

If AESO technical studies identify a foreseeable need for TMR to compensate for insufficient local transmission relative to local load beyond the initial two-year term, the AESO may elect to exercise its option to extend the TMR service term. The initial term is two years and there are two six-month extension options.

7. When would the AESO notify the service provider that an extension to the TMR agreement is required?

Unless the AESO provides written notice to the service provider at least 10 business days prior to the expiry of the TMR agreement, the TMR agreement shall automatically extend for an additional six-month period after the initial term or the first option term. The initial term is two years and there are two six-month extension options. The term of the TMR agreement shall never extend beyond June 30, 2025. Please refer to the draft TMR agreement for additional information.

8. Could you confirm whether the TMR Facility must be connected only to one of the substations in the GP Loop, or could it be connected to a substation outside the GP loop, in the Northwest Planning Region?

The TMR Facility must be located within the Alberta Balancing Authority Area and be connected to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System via one of the following seven substations located in the Grande Prairie planning area (area 20): Poplar Hill 790S; Goodfare 815S; Elmworth 731S; Lowe Lake 944S; Urdike 886S; Saddle Hills 865S; Wapiti 823S. Please see the REOI, and RFP competition documents once available, for additional information.

9. Is Section 203.4 of the ISO Rules (Delivery Requirements for Energy) applicable to the TMR dispatch?

Yes, Section 203.4 of the ISO rules is applicable to a TMR dispatch. Section 5.1(a)(iii)(B) of the draft TMR agreement included in the REOI document requires that when dispatched for TMR, the service provider shall ramp in accordance with the ISO rules. If the procurement competition proceeds to an RFP stage, the AESO anticipates updating the draft TMR agreement to clarify that the ramping requirements to a TMR dispatch are as set out in Section 203.4 of the ISO rules.

10. Is the AESO able to provide an advanced notice of a TMR dispatch?

No. Based on the real-time operational requirements for TMR, the AESO may issue one of the two types of TMR dispatches as noted in the response to question 1. Upon the effective time within a TMR dispatch, the service provider is required to begin ramping in accordance with the ISO rules.

11. Can I participate in the RFP stage, if applicable, if I did not participate in the REOI stage and did not provide an Expression of Interest?

Yes. Participation in the REOI stage was recommended but was not a requirement to participate in the RFP stage. If the AESO proceeds with an RFP, any market participant who meets the eligibility criteria can participate in the RFP stage.